(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) what parameters Government have followed while sanctioning projects in the State;

(d) what is the present mining policy in the State;

(e) whether Government have accorded any licence to the private persons in mining lease;

(f) if so, the complete details thereof during the last three years; and

(g) what is the present status of mining industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mineral concessions for mining projects. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only for grant of mineral concessions for the minerals specified in the First Schedule of Mines and Minerals (Devleopment and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). The details of mineral concession proposals approved by Ministry of Mines including those approved in respect of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are available on the website of Ministry of Mines *(http://www.mines.nic.in)*.

(c) The prior approval of the Central Government on proposals for grant of mineral concessions is given as per the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder.

(d) National Mineral Policy, 1993 generally guides the mineral sector in India including the mining policies of the State Governments. The National Mineral Policy, 1993 can be accessed on the website of Ministry of Mines *(http://www.mines.nic.in)*.

(e) and (0 Under the MMDR Act, an Indian national or a company registered in India under Section 3 (1) of the Companies Act, 1956 can be granted mineral concession, including mining lease. The details of mineral concession proposal approved by Ministry of Mines are available on the website of Ministry of Mines *(http://www.mines.nic.-in)*.

(g) As per the information given by Indian Bureau of Mines, the value of mineral production in Andhra Pradesh (excluding atomic minerals) was Rs. 6956 crore in the year 2005-06 as against Rs. 6832 crore in the previous year.

Implementation of Sachhar Committee report

226. SHRI A. VIJYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to implement the report submitted by Justice Rajendra Sachhar Committee for upliftment of the Muslim community;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken report based on the above recommendations and the details of implementations of above report, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan/proposal to address the problems faced by the Muslim community on the health, education and employment fronts as on date;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (d) The recommendations of the Sachhar Committee have already been considered by Government and a decision taken regarding the follow up action. The salient features are given below:-

(i) Targeted intervention is proposed for improvement of basic amenities and employment opportunities in 90 identified minority concentration districts which are backward in terms of various developmental parameters.

(ii) Appropriate measures will be taken to improve the deficiency in civic amenities and economic opportunities in 338 identified towns and cities with substantial population of minorities including Muslims. An inter-ministerial task force is already working on this to recommed appropriate strategies in this regard.

(iii) An inter-ministerial group will plan and monitor the implementation of a comprehensive programme for skill and entrepreneurship development among the Muslim community and for ensuring easy and smooth access to credit to the minorities, and Muslims in particular. "Clusters", having a substantial presence of the Muslim community, especially of those engaged in artisanal activities, will be given focused attention.

(iv) Public sector banks will open more branches in Muslim concentration areas, financial institutions will promote microfinance among the minorities, especially women, public sector banks will monitor the disposal of loan applications for minorities and maintain reasons for rejection, Reserve Bank of India will maintain district-wise and bank-wise data regarding disposal of applications on its website and the flow of credit to minorities, including Muslims would be monitored regularly. The data can be accessed under the Right to Information Act.

(v) A multi-pronged strategy will be adopted for addressing the problem of educational backwardness of the Muslim community. The outreach of upper primary schools will be expanded, particularly for Muslim girls, and where necessary, with "girls only" schools, more Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) will be opened in areas with substantial Muslim population; priority would be given to the opening of secondary and senior secondary schools' in areas of Muslim concentration, a special literacy drive will be taken up in districts with a substantial population of Muslims, Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs) would be established to impart pre-service and inservice training to primary, upper primary and secondary level teachers in such areas, additional allocation will be made for opening women's hostels in schools and universities, the Madarasa Modernization Programme will be revised to enhance the components eligible for assistance, the mid-day meal scheme will be extended, especially in educationally backward Muslim concentration blocks and the question of equivalence of qualifications from madarsas for subsequent access to higher education will be addressed.

(vi) Three scholarship schemes *viz.* a merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for 20,000 students from the minority communities for pursuing technical and

professional courses, a pre-matric and a post-matric scholarship scheme will be introduced. A revised coaching and remedial tuition scheme would be designed to improve the employability and academic performance of students belonging to the minority communities. Guidelines have been issued already to improve the representation of minorities, including Muslims in Government, public sector enterprises, public sector banks etc. The Corpus of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) would be augmented and its operations expanded and streamlined.

(vii) Dissemination of information regarding health and family welfare schemes will be done in Urdu and regional languages in such districts blocks and towns with a substantial minority population. A basket of choice in contraception will also be made available, along with ensuring easy access to such services.

(viii) A comprehensive amendment of the Wakf Act is proposed to address existing deficiencies.

(ix) A suitable agency would assist in the development of Wakf properties so that the augmented income could be utilized for the purposes intended.

(x) All personnel, like Government employees, teachers, health personnel would be sensitized to the importance of diversity and social inclusion.

(xi) Civil Rights Centres will be opened in universities, beginning with Central universities.

(xii) A High Level Committee has been constituted to review the Delimitation Act and the concerns expressed by the Sachhar Committee regarding anomalies in the representation of Muslims will be considered in the course of this review.

(xiii) It has been decided in principle to set up an Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) to look into grievances regarding discrimination. An expert group will study and recommend its structure and function.

(xiv) In order to promote diversity and social inclusion in educational institutions, work places and living spaces, and expert group will be constituted to propose an appropriate "'diversity index". Such an index can be the basis for providing incentives for better representation in all three areas mentioned above.

(xv) A National Data Bank (NDB) and an autonomous Assessment and Monitoring Authority (AMA) will be set up which will analyse the data so generated and suggest appropriate policies to Government on a continuous basis.

(e) Does not arise.

Assistance to minority youths for self employment

227. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: